

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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FEA-02 NIC-01 DRC-01 ( ISO ) W  
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R 071401Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4653

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CNO

NAVSHIPSYSYSCOM CODE 08

CINCEUR

CONCUSNAVEUR

COMSIXTHFLT

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COMSUBGRU EIGHT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 6241

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, IT, JA, PBOR

SUBJ: NPW OPERATIONS AT LA MADDALENA

REF: ROME 6125

FOR INFORMATION OF ADDRESSEES, FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ARTICLE BY  
GIANGRANCO AMENDOLA IN /IL MESSAGGERO/ OF MAY 3 ON NPW'S AT  
LA MADDALENA:

BEGIN TEXT: (AFTER QUOTING VARIOUS REACTIONS OF SOME  
SARDINIAN POLITICAL CIRCLES, AMENDOLA WRITES:) THESE ARE THE  
FIRST REACTIONS PRODUCED BY OUR ARTICLES ON RADIOACTIVITY AT  
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LA MADDALENA.

THE SUPERIOR HEALTH ISTITUTE HAS TAKEN STEPS AT THE REQUEST OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND OF THE SARDINIAN REGION. SINCE MONDAY (APRIL 29) EXPERTS ARE STAYING AT LA MADDALENA TO STUDY A SERIOUS PLAN OF CONSTANT CONTROL.

THE CNEN TOO, TOGETHER WITH THE MILITARY OF CAMEN, TOOK, ON MARCH 23, 1974, NEW SAMPLES AT LA MADDALENA, BUT IT IS TOO EARLY TO KNOW THE RESULTS.

AS ONE CAN SEE, SOMETHING IS BEING DONE (WE SAID SO ON APRIL 14) AFTER OUR LAST ARTICLE, A PHOTOSTATIC COPY OF WHICH WAS DISTRIBUTED AT LA MADDALENA BY THE PCI (COMMUNIST PARTY). BUT NOT ENOUGH.

IN ANY CASE, IF WE ARE DEALING ONCE AGAIN WITH THIS SUBJECT TODAY, IT IS ABOVE ALL TO EXPLAIN THE INFORMATION AND DATA PLACED AT OUR DISPOSAL BY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY.

IN SHORT, THESE ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT POINTS:

1) IT IS NOT TRUE THAT U.S. NUCLEAR SUBMARINES HAVE BEEN EXPELLED BY JAPAN BECAUSE AN INCREASE IN RADIOACTIVITY HAD BEEN NOTICED, ESPECIALLY AS REGARDS COBALT 60. THE ONLY TRUE THING IS THAT ON JANUARY 29, 1974 THEY DISCOVERED THAT CERTAIN ANALYSES PREPARED BY THE JAPANESE ON RADIOACTIVITY IN JAPANESE PORTS VISITED BY U.S. NUCLEAR SHIPS HAD BEEN TAMPERED WITH BY THE AGENCY IN CHARGE OF THE SAID ANALYSES AND THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAD "INFORMALLY" ASKED THE UNITED STATES TO SUSPEND THE NUCLEAR SUBMARINES' VISITS UNTIL A NEW "CREDIBLE" PROGRAM OF ANALYSES COULD BE PREPARED.

2) THE UNITED STATES CONDUCTS INSPECTIONS REGULARLY AT LA MADDALENA. ACTUALLY THE FIRST ANALYSES WERE CARRIED OUT BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF THE NUCLEAR SUBMARINES. IT SEEMS THAT THESE INSPECTIONS DISCLOSED NO INCREASE IN RADIOACTIVITY. IN PARTICULAR, AS REGARDS COBALT 60 (CALLED THE "LONG-LIVED RADIO-NUCLIDE, A TYPICAL PRODUCT OF NUCLEAR REACTORS"), ALL THE SAMPLES (122 IN 1972 AND 134 IN 1973) TAKEN FROM SEDIMENTS (SEABED). SHOW THAT IT IS LESS THAN THREE PICOCURIES PER GRAM, WHICH IS UNCLASSIFIED

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AN INSIGNIFICANT AMOUNT FROM THE HEALTH POINT OF VIEW.

3) ON THE WHOLE, IN 1972 AND IN 1973, THE 100 SHIPS OR SO THE U.S. HAS IN ALL THE PORTS OF THE WORLD "DISCHARGED" A RADIOACTIVITY BELOW 0.002 CURIE, I.E. AN AMOUNT WHICH IS ABSOLUTELY NOT DANGEROUS EVEN TAKEN AS A WHOLE.

AT THIS POINT, AFTER HAVING MENTIONED THE OBSERVATIONS MADE

BY THE AMERICANS, WE FEEL WE MUST ADD OTHER ELEMENTS.

AS REGARDS JAPAN, TO DISCUSS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "EXPEL"  
AND "ASK INFORMALLY" WOULD BE RHETORICAL.

LET US EXAMINE THE FACTS WE ALREADY KNOW (IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING  
THAT BY TWO TELEPRINTER MESSAGES, ONE DATED FEBRUARY 8 AND THE  
OTHER ONE MARCH 1, 1974, THE ITALIAN EMBASSY IN TOKYO OFFICIALLY  
INFORMED OUR GOVERNMENT, ALWAYS THE ABSENT PARTNER IN THIS AFFAIR).

ON JANUARY 29, 1974, T. FUWA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE JAPANESE  
COMMUNIST PARTY RAISED A PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION, ACCUSING THE  
"AGENCY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY" (A GOVERNMENT AGENCY WHICH  
SUPERVISES SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN JAPAN) OF HAVING PUBLISHED  
FALSE DATA ON THE RADIOACTIVITY SURVEYS CONDUCTED IN JAPANESE PORTS  
AFTER THEY HAD BEEN VISITED BY U.S. NUCLEAR SUBMARINES. AN  
INQUIRY WAS IMMEDIATELY ORDERED AND DISCLOSED THAT ABOUT 70  
PERCENT OF THE DATA WHICH HAD BEEN  
IZGEB OAD DC#  
FALSIFIED.

IT WAS ASCERTAINED SAMPLINGS OF THE SEABED MUD  
SEDIMENT), ON WHICH THE ANALYSES SHOULD HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT,  
HAD NOT BEEN PERFORMED AS REQUIRED, I.E. IN THE AREA RIGHT  
UNDER THE SUBMARINES RIDING AT ANCHOR.

A BASE ABOVE CONTROL AND ANY KIND OF LAW

MOREOVER: ON FEBRUARY 25, 1974 A NOTE FROM THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT  
(PUBLISHED BY THE NEWSPAPER "DAILY YOMIURI" OF FEBRUARY 27, 1974)  
REVEALED THAT NAHA, THE PORT OF OKINAWA, HAD BEEN CONTAMINATED  
BY U.S. NUCLEAR SUBMARINES BEFORE THE ISLAND WAS RETURNED  
TO JAPAN IN MAY 1972.  
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IN THIS CONNECTION, YOSHINORI IHARA, A MEMBER OF THE CHAMBER  
OF DEPUTIES AND DIRECTOR OF THE ATOMIC OFFICE OF THE SCIENCE  
AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY, SAID TO THE PRESS THAT "PART OF THE HIGH  
PERCENTAGE OF COBALT 60 THAT WAS FOUND IN THE OKINAWA SEABED  
SEDIMENT WAS PRODUCED BY U.S. NUCLEAR SUBMARINES". THE STILL  
ONGOING INQUIRY HAS ALREADY ASCERTAINED THAT THE DATA HAD BEEN  
FALSIFIED BY ORDERS COMING FROM THE TOP. THE "JAPAN TIMES"  
OF FEBRUARY 19, 1974 SAID THAT A RESEARCHER OF THE INSTITUTE  
WHICH FALSIFIED THE ANALYSES ADMITTED IN A PRESS CONFERENCE  
THAT KOJI OSATO, HEAD OF THE FIRST SECTION, HAD INSTRUCTED HIM  
AND OTHER RESEARCHERS HOW TO P  
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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AEC-11 ACDA-19 OMB-01 SCI-06 MC-02 COA-02

FEA-02 NIC-01 DRC-01 /156 W

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R 071401Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4654

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CNO

NAVSHIPSYSYSCOM CODE 08

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D) TO SUSPED THE U.S. NUCLEAR SUBMARINES' "VISITS" TO JAPANESE  
PORTS AS OF THE END OF FEBRUARY 1974.

THESE FACTS CONCERNING JAPAN SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.

AS REGARDS LA MADDALENA, UNFORTUNATELY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY  
HAS GIVEN NO DATA FOR THE PERIOD PRIOR TO THE ARRIVAL OF THE  
SUBMARINES IN 1972. (NOTE: EMBOFFS DID IN FACT SUPPLY AMENDOLA  
THIS DATA.) HOWEVER, WE ARE READY TO BET THAT THERE WAS NO  
COBALT BEFORE. AND, IF AFTER THE INSTALLATION OF THE BASE,  
COBALT APPEARED ON THE SCENE, IT IS NOT ALTOGETHER CORRECT  
TO SPEAK OF NON-INCREASE OF RADIOACTIVITY.

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EVEN IF ALL THE SEDIMENT SAMPLES SHOWED LESS THAN 3 PICOCURIES  
PER GRAM OF COBALT, IT WOULD STILL BE INTERESTING TO KNOW WHETHER,  
WITHIN THE SAID LIMITS, THE AMOUNT OF COBALT HAS BECOME  
GREATER (FOR INSTANCE, FROM 0.001 TO 0.01) OR WHETHER IT HAS

SPREAD IN THE AREA, AS IT APPEARS FROM THE DATA SUPPLIED BY CNEN.

THIS, AGAIN, NOT BECAUSE OF A DIRECT DANGER BUT BECAUSE COBALT 60 IS A SUBSTANCE WHICH IS HALVED ONLY AFTER FIVE YEARS AND HAS PLENTY OF TIME TO INCREASE THROUGH THE ACCUMULATION OF WASTE MATERIAL.

HERE, TOO, THE DATA SUPPLIED BY THE AMERICANS APPEAR TO BE SERIOUSLY INADEQUATE. THEY ONLY CONSIDER THE SEDIMENT, I.E. THE SEABED IN ITS MOST SUPERFICIAL PART AND DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ACCUMULATION PHENOMENA BUT ONLY THE LAST MATERIAL DEPOSITED. NOW, EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT MANY SEA-WATER ORGANISMS (REMEMBER MUSSELS AND TYPHUS BACILLI) CAN ACCUMULATE AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF EXTRANEIOUS SUBSTANCES. FOR EXAMPLE, THE INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED BY CNENE DISCLOSED AN ACCUMULATION OF COBALT 60 IN "PINNAE NOBILES" (SHELLFISH) AT LA MADDALENA.

HOW MUCH COBALT WILL BECOME ACCUMULATED IN SHELLFISH BY 1977, FIVE YEARS AFTER THE INSTALLATION OF THE BASE? IT WILL CERTAINLY INCREASE BUT IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY HOW MUCH. IN THE MEANTIME, HOWEVER, PEOPLE CONTINUE TO EAT FISH AND SHELLFISH; WHAT THE CONSEQUENCES WILL BE, ESPECIALLY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS, ONE DOES NOT KNOW. IN ORDER TO APPRAISE THE RISKS OF ACCUMULATION PHENOMENA, ONE SHOULD FIRST STUDY - AND THIS WAS NOT DONE - THE LOCAL FISH, WHAT PEOPLE USUALLY EAT AND THE VARIOUS STREAMS.

OUT OF CURIOSITY, WE HAVE BEEN AT LA MADDALENA IN ORDER TO SEE IF WHAT GOES ON THERE ALSO HAPPENS IN OTHER BASES WHERE NUCLEAR SHIPS DOCK. LET US START WITH THE AMERICAN BASES IN THE UNITED STATES.

IN ALL OF THEM ONE CAN NOTICE A WIDELY-SPREAD CONTAMINATION DUE TO COBALT 60, AS A DIRECT CONSEQUENCE OF THE SHIPS' ARRIVAL. THIS IS CONFIRMED BY ALL OFFICIAL REPORTS OF THE U.S. NAVY DEPARTMENT, SUPPORTED BY HUNDREDS OF ANALYSES. PARTICULARLY HIGH LEVELS, WITH A TOTAL ANNUAL AVERAGE OF 4 CURIE, WERE REACHED BETWEEN 1960 AND 1965. AND THESE LEVELS WERE NOT ALWAYS UNDER  
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THREE PICOCURIE PER GRAM, AND WE NOW HAVE AT LA MADDALENA. FOR INSTANCE, IN OCTOBER 1964, AT PEARL HARBOR, 270 PICOCURIE PER GRAM WERE FOUND; AND AT GROTON, NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT, IN 1971, 461 SAMPLES CONTAINED LESS THAN THREE PICOCURIE OF COBALT 60 PER GRAM, 40 CONTAINED BETWEEN THREE AND THIRTY AND TWO BETWEEN THIRTY AND 300.

ON THE OTHER HAND, ONE CAN HARDLY RELY ON ALL THESE SAMPLES, ESPECIALLY IN CONNECTION WITH ACCUMULATION, INASMUCH AS SEA-WATER ORGANISMS AND THE VARIOUS LAYERS OF THE SEABED WERE NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. TO TELL THE TRUTH, IN A REPORT OF 1972 ON PEARL HARBOR IT IS STATED THAT COBALT 60 CANNOT BE ASSIMILATED BY SEA-

WATER ORGANISMS, BUT IT IS STRANGE THEN THAT THE CNEN HAS BEEN ABLE TO FIND IT IN THE "PINNAE NOBILES" AT LA MADDALENA. AS REGARDS THE SEDIMENT, IT IS STATED ON PAGE 329 OF THAT SAME REPORT THAT THE SAMPLES SHOULD HAVE BEEN DRAWN FROM DEEPER LAYERS IN ORDER TO DISCOVER THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF COBALT.

CONCLUSION: EVERY YEAR, SOMETIMES MORE, SOMETIMES LESS, U.S. SHIPS DISCHARGE COBALT 60. COBALT 60 SEPARATES ONLY AFTER FIVE YEARS AND THEREFORE ACCUMULATES, ESPECIALLY IN SEA-WATER ORGANISMS. IT CAN ONLY GROW. HOW MUCH ONE DOES NOT KNOW.

THIS ASSUMING NO ACCIDENTS OCCUR. BUT HERE THE PROBLEM BECOMES SENSITIVE AND THIS IS THE MOST ALARMING POINT. BECAUSE EVERY NOW AND THEN SOMETHING STRANGE MAY HAPPEN. AND IF SOMETHING STRANGE HAPPENS, ALL CALCULATIONS FAIL, AND CERTAINLY IN EXCESS AND NOT DEFECT. THE CONSEQUENCES CAN BE EXTREMELY SERIOUS INASMUCH AS ACCUMULATION BEYOND SAFETY LIMITS MAY OCCUR MUCH SOONER THAN ONE THINKS.

BUT HAS SOMETHING EVER OCCURRED? WE BELIEVE SO. A REPORT FROM THE U.S. NAVY OF SEPTEMBER 1972 SAYS ON PAGE 476 THAT IN 1968, IN THE JAPANESE PORT OF SASEBO, A JAPANESE SHIP WAS CONDUCTING A RADIATION SURVEY IN THE AREA WHERE THERE WAS AN AMERICAN SHIP AND NOTICED A SUDDEN INCREASE IN RADIOACTIVITY. THE REPORT DOES NOT INDICATE THE AMOUNT OF THIS INCREASE BUT SAYS THAT, EVEN THOUGH THERE HAD BEEN "AN ABNORMAL DISCHARGE", PUBLIC HEALTH WAS NOT ENDANGERED.

LET US SEE WHAT HAPPENS IN ITALY. THE ONLY PORT ABOUT WHICH  
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WE KNOW SOMETHING IN CONNECTION WITH COBALT 60 IS LA MADDALENA. PARADOXICALLY, WE KNOW NOTHING, ALSO BECAUSE NO INVESTIGATIONS ARE MADE, ABOUT MORE THICKLY POPULATED PORTS WHICH HOST U.S. NUCLEAR SUBMARINES OR SHIPS.

GIORGIO TECCE WAS QUITE RIGHT WHEN HE POINTED OUT IN THE "ESPRESSO" THAT IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE - AND WE SAY RIGHT AND PROPER - TO EXTEND CONTROL MEASURES AND OPERATIONS ALSO TO OTHER PORTS SUCH AS NAPLES, TARANTO, LA SPEZIA, WHICH ARE VISITED BY U.S. SHIPS. MORE ESPECIALLY AS THEY KEEP SAYING THAT IN 1970, IN NAPLES, AN AMERICAN SHIP DISCHARGED A LARGE AMOUNT OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL. ALL THE THINGS WE HAVE SAID ABOUT LA MADDALENA ARE EVEN MORE IMPORTANT FOR THESE OTHER MORE THICKLY POPULATED AND STRONGLY POLLUTED PORTS.

INVESTIGATIONS, SURVEYS, EMERGENCY PLANS, RESPECT FOR SECURITY REGULATIONS: NOTHING OF ALL THIS IS BEING DONE IN ITALY. FOREIGN MILITARY BASES SEEM TO BE BEYOND ANY KIND OF LAW. ITALIAN AUTHORITIES REMAIN SILENT, TRUSTING THAT, AS HAS ALREADY HAPPENED MORE THAN ONCE, IN DUE COURSE PEOPLE WILL FORGET

EVERYTHING. ONE CANNOT EVEN CONCEIVE THAT THE LIFE OF AN  
ITALIAN MAY HAVE THE SAME VALUE AS THE LIFE OF A JAPANESE AND  
IT IS THEREFORE UNTHINKABLE TO "ASK INFORMALLY" THE UNITED  
STATES STOP SENDING NUCLEAR SHIPS UNTIL ALL THE NECESSARY  
PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES HAVE BEEN ADOPTED. END TEXT.VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

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